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Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
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Special theme: "Territories, lands and natural resources"

Implementation of recommendations on the six mandated areas of the Forum and on the Millennium Development Goals

Information received from the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations

I. World Food Programme

II. International Organization for Migration

III. United Nations Institute for Training and Research

IV. Department of Political Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat

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Summary

The present document consists of information provided by the World Food Programme (WFP), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the Department of Political Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat to the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. The first section contains information provided by WFP on food security and indigenous peoples to the Permanent Forum.

The second section contains the response of IOM to the recommendations identified by the Permanent Forum at its fifth session and discusses activities undertaken or being planned by IOM that are of specific relevance to the Permanent Forum.

At the global level, IOM is undertaking research on the nexus between indigenous peoples and migration. At the field level, IOM is engaged with indigenous peoples, Governments and various partner organizations in developing and implementing culturally appropriate projects that respond to indigenous peoples' particular needs.

The third section contains the report of UNITAR on its Programme in Peacemaking and Preventive Diplomacy. The UNITAR Training Programme to Enhance the Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding Capacities of Indigenous Peoples' Representatives was developed to provide advanced training in conflict analysis and negotiation to representatives of indigenous peoples, based on the requests of indigenous peoples' representatives from around the world at consultations in Geneva and on the recommendations of United Nations Special Rapporteurs.

The final section contains information provided by the Department of Political Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat on the Department's work in the area of conflict prevention in the Americas.

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I. Information from the World Food Programme

1. Even though the World Food Programme (WFP) is not mentioned in the recommendations identified by the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in its report on its fifth session,[1] WFP fully understands the importance of indigenous peoples' issues. Although WFP does not have specific programmes for indigenous people unless they are food-insecure, as the Programme's assistance is based on food insecurity and not strictly on the social status of an individual, some WFP programmes have included indigenous people based on their food security status.

II. Information from the International Organization for Migration

A. Response to recommendations addressed exclusively to the International Organization for Migration

Recommendation 50

2. Through its Counter-Trafficking Division, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) has for the past decade worked with Governments and communities to combat human trafficking. IOM counter-trafficking activities include more than 150 projects in some 70 countries of origin, transit and destination, providing direct assistance to more than 10,000 persons. These activities are developed and implemented within a framework centred on concern for the well-being of the victim.

3. IOM also participates in the Inter-Agency Cooperation Group against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT). The Cooperation Group was formed in September 2006 in Tokyo as an open-ended working group comprising several agencies involved in counter-trafficking activities in order to enhance the impact of technical assistance activities and coordination. The Cooperation Group undertakes these activities to facilitate a holistic approach to preventing and combating trafficking in persons, including protection of and support for victims of trafficking.

4. The IOM regional office for North America and the Caribbean located in Washington, D.C., in partnership with the Inter-American Commission of Women of the Organization of American States, the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration of the United States Department of State, and the Ministry of Justice of the Netherlands, researched and published an *Exploratory Assessment of Trafficking in Persons in the Caribbean*[2] in June 2005. The study highlighted the fact that the indigenous Amerindian peoples of Guyana were particularly vulnerable to trafficking for sexual and labour exploitation, owing mainly to poverty and lack of employment opportunities in their communities of origin.

[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2006, Supplement No. 23* (E/2006/43), chap. I, sect. B.

[2] Available from http://www.oas.org/atip/Caribbean%20Research%202005.pdf (accessed 2 March 2007).

Recommendation 17

5. IOM notes the Permanent Forum's endorsement of the recommendations from the joint report of IOM and the Permanent Forum secretariat on the Expert Workshop on Indigenous Peoples and Migration: Challenges and Opportunities held in Geneva on 6 and 7 April 2006 (E/C.19/2006/CRP.5). In this regard, in 2006 IOM joined the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues and will further consider the recommendation of the workshop that a task force be created within the Support Group to specifically address migration issues of indigenous peoples. As noted in the recommendation, such a task force could ensure the participation of indigenous leaders and experts engaged with migration topics and promote capacity-building projects dealing with the migration of indigenous peoples.

6. Some of the experts' recommendations included the need to inject a much-needed perspective of indigenous peoples at the 2006 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, which indeed did include the participation of a representative of the Permanent Forum. In addition, issues affecting indigenous peoples were addressed during the High-level Dialogue's informal interactive hearings, where non-governmental organizations, civil society and private sector actors included indigenous leaders. A particular case was the participation of a representative of the Cultural Conservation Act from Rwanda, who had also been a participant at the IOM/Permanent Forum secretariat workshop.

7. The Expert Workshop on Indigenous Peoples and Migration highlighted the impact of migration on indigenous communities, noting that such impact could be collective rather than individual and could have stronger consequences for indigenous peoples' cultures than for those of any other group. The positive potential of indigenous migration was also discussed. In this regard, it was noted that the community organizations of many indigenous peoples might help enhance the impact of remittances and might also aid in the transfer of skills and their circulation throughout the entire community. When they do migrate out of their communities, indigenous peoples can promote their indigenous social and cultural capital in their destination countries or communities, at the same time furthering attention to, and knowledge of and interest in, indigenous peoples. For indigenous peoples, particularly in a migration context, there is a need for the implementation of international law and for indigenous peoples themselves to participate and have a voice in matters that may lead to their own migration or the migration of others to their lands.

Recommendation 161

8. IOM will participate in the Expert Group Meeting on Urban Indigenous Peoples and Migration, to be held from 27 to 29 March 2007 in Santiago, and to be organized by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), in cooperation with the secretariat of the Permanent Forum. IOM will provide an overview of the impact of migration on indigenous peoples, while recognizing the cultural particularities of their migration. IOM expert representatives at this workshop will include Ms. Gabriela Rodriguez, Chief of Mission of IOM-Chile and former Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the human rights of migrants, and Mr. Eugenio Ambrosi, IOM regional representative based in Buenos Aires. IOM input will also provide the perspective of an international

organization working with specific indigenous communities in Latin America. As a result of the participation of indigenous experts in the Expert Workshop on Indigenous Peoples and Migration, IOM was able to recommend indigenous experts representing the Pacific and Latin America regions.

B. Response to recommendations addressed to one or more agencies or to the United Nations system in general under one or more items

9. In response to the Permanent Forum's recommendations to the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues and to international organizations, IOM stands ready to work in cooperation with other members of the Support Group to maximize collaboration, avoid duplication and advance joint efforts to strengthen work on data collection and identification of indicators relevant to indigenous peoples. Additionally, IOM supports efforts to integrate indigenous issues into development frameworks and supports partnerships built to ensure the protection of and respect for indigenous peoples' rights and the realization of their visions of development with respect for culture and identity. IOM would also ensure that any programmes on HIV/AIDS would be culturally appropriate and include the full and effective participation, and free, prior and informed consent, of indigenous peoples.

C. Obstacles to implementation of recommendations or other policies relevant to indigenous peoples

10. IOM is a project-based organization. Lack of core resources to address issues relating to indigenous peoples and migration can be overcome only by donor support through project funding.

D. Other significant information on recent policies, programmes, budgetary allocations or activities regarding indigenous issues within the International Organization for Migration

11. Arising out of the joint IOM/Permanent Forum secretariat Expert Workshop on Indigenous Peoples and Migration (April 2006) were a number of recommendations made by experts with respect to indigenous peoples' lands. The experts recommended that indigenous peoples should, in order to avoid migration or displacement, have input on policies and projects that might affect their lands. Also, the experts recommended that States be aware of development plans that might lead to the forcible displacement of indigenous communities via encroachment by extractive industries on indigenous lands.

12. In 2007, IOM will undertake research on the nexus between indigenous peoples and migration with a special regional focus on Latin America. The research will highlight the many challenges faced by indigenous peoples when forced to migrate from their territories and will also consider the opportunities that informed migration may bring to indigenous migrants and their communities. This paper, which will be made available during the sixth session of the Permanent Forum in May 2007, is intended for publication later in the year.

13. The integration of indigenous migrants and communities in host societies — abroad or within national borders — is another subject that presents unique considerations and IOM is also working to mainstream these considerations into its activities at headquarters. For example, in July 2006, at the Seminar on Migrants and Host Societies: Partnership for Success held by IOM at headquarters within the framework of its International Dialogue on Migration, the President of the Commission of the Indigenous Community of the Guatemalan Congress, a representative of the Mayan people, focused on the special challenges faced by indigenous peoples in respect of their integration. IOM has recently joined the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues to engage with other agencies and organizations on addressing the individual and collective challenges of indigenous peoples and to contribute IOM expertise on the topic of international migration.

14. The mandate of IOM is to help ensure the orderly and humane management of migration, to promote international cooperation on migration issues, to assist in the search for practical solutions to migration problems and to provide humanitarian assistance to migrants in need, be they displaced persons or other uprooted people. IOM is highly decentralized and service-oriented. As part of this field-driven approach, IOM field missions have developed and implemented various projects relevant to indigenous peoples and undertake efforts to ensure that all projects are culturally appropriate and culturally sensitive. To illustrate, a sampling of IOM projects at the field level that involve indigenous peoples are described below.

Chile

15. Following an agreement with the local Corporation for Indigenous Development, over the last three years IOM-Santiago has been executing programmes encompassing promotion of and information on indigenous rights, subsidies to address the needs and the legal defence of indigenous communities, and the implementation of a public registry of indigenous lands. Recently, the Santiago Mission has received requests from both the Interior Ministry of Chile and the Corporation for Indigenous Development for studies on flows of indigenous groups throughout that country.

Costa Rica

16. In Costa Rica, IOM is providing support to a programme managed by the National University in Costa Rica aimed at improving the health of the estimated 12,000 Ngobe men, women and children who travel from Panama to Costa Rica every August to start work on the coffee harvests in southern Costa Rica. The programme provides literacy classes for the indigenous Ngobe tribe, which are funded by the United States Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration and include a handbook in Ngobe. The classes also include information on health and human rights. The classes will end in late February or early March, when the Ngobe head back to Panama. Ngobe representatives lauded the literacy effort but said much more must be done. A recently signed agreement with the National University will allow for future cooperation between IOM-San José and the university. Recently, one literacy project entitled "Building Bridges" was officially inaugurated with the attendance of two coffee cooperatives and members of the migrant population.

17. Other IOM efforts on behalf of the Ngobe indigenous mobile population are focused on project development. IOM-Costa Rica and the Costa Rica Social Security Fund are developing projects aimed at contributing to improved health among seasonal migrant workers of the Ngobe tribe. This project will pilot a health promotion model designed to reach this highly mobile population at strategic points along the migration route, with a view to training health promoters. By empowering members of the target population through provision of knowledge and resources, this project will build the health capacity of the Ngobe migrants, increasing access to health information and services. IOM-Costa Rica is working with members of the Ngobe tribe for their inputs so as to ensure that the health promotion model is culturally appropriate, and will work with key farm owners to promote their sensitization.

Ecuador

18. IOM-Ecuador has been working with a number of different indigenous communities along Ecuador's northern border with Colombia as part of its Northern Border Development Programme and Emergency Assistance to Displaced Colombians Programme. These communities include the Kichwa, Epera, Cayapa, Chachis, Otavalo and Awa ethnic groups. IOM-Ecuador provides training to local indigenous community members on a variety of health issues including acute respiratory infection, acute diarrhoea disease, first aid and HIV/AIDS. In 2005, IOM-Ecuador assisted indigenous communities in the area of land titling and legalization of their lands. This project was carried out in 18 indigenous communities covering several ethnic groups in the province of Sucumbios.

19. Ongoing activities involve the construction of social and productive infrastructure projects. Social infrastructure includes the construction of potable water and sewerage systems which reached upward of 4,500 indigenous peoples of the Cayapa, Chachi and Awa communities in Esmeraldas, Sucumbios, Napo and Imbabura provinces. Productive infrastructure projects involve mainly the construction of pedestrian or vehicular bridges and also the paving of roads so that communities are able to bring their goods to local markets more easily. Transportation infrastructure projects reach 3,700 indigenous peoples of the Epera, Chachi and Awa communities in Esmeraldas, Orellana and Napo provinces. After a potable water or sewerage system has been constructed in a community, the local leaders are provided with ongoing training on a variety of topics that relate to the operation, maintenance and commercialization of the system. Examples of such topics include technical maintenance of the equipment, proper use of chemicals for disinfecting the water (which make it potable), accounting practices, how to collect overdue bills from users, organizational development and team-building, etc.

20. The United Nations country teams of Colombia and Ecuador have recently formed a bilateral working group to discuss border issues involving the two countries. IOM-Ecuador and IOM-Colombia are integrated into both the United Nations country teams and are members of the working group on indigenous peoples.

Colombia

21. IOM-Colombia recognizes a need to include specific cultural characteristics of indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities in education, health and productive

services. Access to land, education, employment and basic services go hand in hand with their social and cultural needs. These needs include respect for cultural identity (such as indigenous health practices and adaptation of the school curricula to cultural specificities) and the possibility of actively participating in local and national decision-making, and encompass concerns about discrimination as an obstacle in terms of access and fulfilment of their basic needs. IOM-Colombia currently has three programmes that involve indigenous peoples: (a) Assistance Programme for Displaced People and Vulnerable Groups, (b) Strengthening Peace Programme in Colombia and (c) Support Programme for Ex-Combatant Children.

22. As part of the Assistance Programme for Displaced People and Vulnerable Groups, the sectors of land, health and education are being focused on. IOM-Colombia is participating in the construction of "Guidelines for prevention and integral assistance for displaced and under-risk indigenous groups with a differential approach" which will eventually be presented to the National Council for Integral Assistance to Internally Displaced Populations for application in territorial areas. With respect to protection of land and patrimonial assets of displaced populations in Colombia, the main focus of IOM-Colombia since 2002 has been on protecting land assets of at-risk families through a pilot programme co-financed with the World Bank, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), Acción Social, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Office of the Governor of Norte de Santander. Primary protective measures have included a national registry of abandoned lands; a freeze on land sales in zones of high displacement; and an exchange programme that allows internally displaced persons access to land in lower-risk areas. Under this project, IOM-Colombia has also helped update and computerize registration of titled landholdings at the local level, allowing internally displaced persons and at-risk populations to participate in the 2007/01 land programme and providing them with the means to more easily reclaim their lands in the event of return as well as with a legal basis for contesting illegal seizures. The programme also provides the basis for land swaps.

23. IOM-Colombia has also promoted land titling in at-risk urban and rural zones. This has had two important impacts. First, once land is registered and titled, it will be more difficult for illegal actors to try to displace the population. Second, titling allows beneficiaries access to mortgage credits, both while they are on their land and following displacement. IOM-Colombia is extending land titling throughout at-risk zones within selected municipalities, deterring additional displacement. IOM-Colombia is also supporting the updating of municipal tax registries. These registries function as official records of landownership (reducing opportunities for illegal acquisition) and also increase municipal funding for social services, diminishing social stresses caused by arrivals of internally displaced persons. Finally, IOM-Colombia has supported the rehabilitation of unused or underutilized lands for income-generation for internally displaced persons and the rehabilitation of demonstration plots at agricultural rural schools and colleges. On the basis of the above experience and the legal remedies available, IOM-Colombia has developed and is implementing with multiple partners, including a representative from the National Organization of Indigenous Groups in Colombia, an integrated strategy for addressing the land access issue in terms of both protection and return, and relocation sub-projects in designated municipalities. Principal elements of the scheme include asset protection and strengthening of other legal remedies.

24. The Assistance Programme has stepped up the pace of protection activity. It is strengthening the institutional network at national and local levels, and internally displaced person capacity at individual and collective levels. It has also helped to create alternative solutions for specific constraints (such as debt relief) and is developing more effective procedures for protection of particularly vulnerable groups including indigenous and Afro-Colombian populations.

25. In the Dagua municipality of Valle de Cauca, IOM-Colombia is involved in meetings being held between the Municipal Unit for Agricultural Technical Assistance (Unidad Municipal de Asistencia Técnica Agropecuaria) and indigenous authorities of the YU'Yich Kwe, Cañon del Río Pepitas and Nuevo Despertar with a view to creating awareness of land protection issues and agreement on the application of protection measures in their territories. In the department of Norte de Santander, a differentiated strategy has been developed to collect information on the exercise of land rights for the Motilón Barí and Catalaura reservations. Workshops have also been held to create awareness on protection measures and their scope within the community and to agree on the strategies for data collection with the Association of Bari (ASCBARI Cabildos). In the Chocó department, IOM-Colombia has met with various indigenous representatives. Among them were the Regional Indigenous Organization (OREWA), indigenous cabildos particularly the Cabildo Mayor del Alto de San Jusna-Camaiscon, and the board of the Community Council of the Andagueda indigenous reservation. In meetings with the Andagueda people, some key factors of vulnerability were established, namely, the transformation of the appropriation, use and handling of territories, the legal situation and territorial legislation. The Tadó and Bagadó municipalities of the Chocó department have been selected for continued support in respect of the identification and characterization of territorial needs and judicial security.

26. IOM-Colombia is implementing specialized health projects, training and supporting traditional healers, and strengthening existing indigenous health networks. A project on sexual and reproductive health is being implemented in the municipalities of Mocoa, Villagarzón and Puerto Asís in Putumayo, which includes the input of the indigenous and Afro-Colombia populations, so as to ensure culturally appropriate methodologies.

27. An education project in Putumayo for Afro-Colombian and indigenous groups is expected to expand assistance coverage, improve the supply of education services, prevent displacements and consolidate institutional presence with the involvement of community organizations, Acción Social, and the local education department. Currently, five teaching institutions for indigenous groups and six for Afro-Colombians have been identified.

28. For 2007, IOM-Colombia is planning numerous activities, including (a) providing advice and technical assistance to Acción Social in differentiating between the various ethnic and indigenous groups in the Information System on the Displaced Population (Sistema Información de la Población Desplazada), (b) coordinating and providing advice to the Colombian Institute for Rural Development (Instituto Colombiano de Desarrollo Rural (INCODER)) and entities of the Public Ministry with respect to the inclusion of the module of affected ethnic territories in the Unified Property Registry, (c) providing training on land protection to minority ethnic groups and (d) continuing with the land protection process in Norte de Santander, Chocó and Valle de Cauca.

29. The IOM-Colombia Strengthening Peace Programme has constructed an Integral Centre for Coexistence and Peace aimed at creating a space within which to integrate indigenous traditional medical practices with Western medicine and also establishing a space for cultural exchange, thus constituting an innovative strategy for promoting inter-ethnic coexistence. The Centre also established a school for young boys and girls known as Escuela de Eseñanza Propia, aimed at the recuperation and consolidation of the customs and traditions of three indigenous communities of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta (Kogui, Wiwa and Yukpa). The school was created for children who, owing to conflict, have had to abandon their places of origin, thereby losing the opportunity to get to know their history, customs and sacred areas. The school is using 19 training modules for mother tongue, traditional music, traditional fabrics, and customs. Likewise, the contents of the modules have been discussed with the *Mamos* (elders) and experts on the different subjects to be developed in the school, for the purpose of receiving feedback. Bilingual teachers have also been hired to teach the children.

30. The IOM-Colombia programme on Prevention of Accidents and Incidents with Anti-Personnel Mines is aimed at designing, constructing and equipping two *kankuruas* (indigenous traditional houses) where trainings and information sessions will be carried out on awareness of anti-personnel mines and how they affect the indigenous community located in the Centro Yeura. The construction of the *kankuruas* is being coordinated with indigenous leaders aiming at preserving their customs and traditions.

31. IOM-Colombia also provides a Support Programme for Ex-Combatant Children. One project on economic development opportunities and food security aims to reduce the vulnerability of Arhuaco indigenous youth in Pueblo Bello (Cesar). In Mitú, Vaupes, a survey is being undertaken among indigenous boys, girls and youth on the impact of armed conflict, with the aim of identifying prevention strategies against recruitment. Potential future activities based on funding include a project aimed at generating opportunities for social inclusion and mitigation of threats for indigenous children and youth in the Wacoyo reservation. A second project will involve the Los Pastos indigenous community in initiatives aimed at the prevention of recruitment of boys, girls and youth into illegal armed groups and restoration of the rights of ex-combatant children.

32. The programmes discussed above work specifically with indigenous communities. Though many IOM-Colombia projects target displaced communities at large, in many instances indigenous communities are also part of this beneficiary group and measures are taken to ensure cultural sensitivity. For example, a project on creating and strengthening a youth movement in Montes de Maria as a strategy to reduce the risk of recruitment into illegal armed groups also supports the participation of indigenous youth living in San Antonio de Palmito. Other programmes include strengthening of food security for vulnerable, returnee and displaced groups in Putumayo and Valle de Cauca, which include indigenous communities.

33. The continuing work of IOM-Colombia with indigenous peoples is based on specific guidelines on ethnic groups, indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants to ensure that all IOM projects include the rights of indigenous peoples, taking into account their own culture, politics and policies. A cornerstone of these guidelines is the need for the systemic participation of indigenous peoples in decisions that affect

them. These guidelines represent a minimum standard, subject to further evaluation, that ensures that IOM projects are culturally and linguistically appropriate. IOM-Colombia also works to raise awareness nationally of the cultural heritage and benefits to society contributed by indigenous people and Afro-Colombian communities.

34. The focal point for ethnic groups and indigenous issues for IOM-Colombia is also participating in meetings and events involving ethnic groups in Colombia. This focal point has had working sessions with other organizations and donors aimed at obtaining information on the various activities being implemented with ethnic groups. The focal point is a member of the working group for Afro-Colombian affairs of the United States Agency for International Development. The objective this year is to be able to set up an inter-agency working group for indigenous affairs with other agencies/organizations. Along the same lines, political dialogue with different government entities and representatives dealing with ethnic affairs will be strengthened.

Information regarding the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

35. The projects highlighted above incorporate a number of IOM activities that are relevant to the Programme of Action for the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (A/60/270, sect. II) in the areas of culture, education, health, human rights, environment, and social and economic development.

III. Information from the United Nations Institute for Training and Research

A. Recommendation identified by the Permanent Forum at its fifth session concerning the United Nations Institute for Training and Research

36. The Permanent Forum an its fifth session (see E/2006/43, chap. I, sect. B, para. 41) recommended that the UNITAR training programme to enhance the conflict prevention and peacebuilding capacities of indigenous peoples' representatives be supported henceforth through the regular budget of the United Nations. As UNITAR to date has received no funding from the regular budget of the United Nations and must raise all of the funding for its programmes and staff from Governments and foundations, this recommendation aimed at ensuring the continuation of this much-requested capacity-building programme is most welcome. UNITAR looks forward to providing any additional réquired information related to the realization of this recommendation.

37. The main objectives of the UNITAR Training Programme to Enhance the Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding Capacities of Indigenous Peoples' Representatives are: to strengthen participants' capacities to analyse conflict; to identify the needs, fears, concerns and aspirations of all parties to a conflict; and, based upon this and while being engaged in dialogue with partners, to formulate mutually beneficial options to address problems. The focus is on the process of analysing and dealing with conflict in a constructive manner. With strengthened

tools of conflict analysis, negotiation and relationship-building, indigenous representatives are further equipped to engage in dialogue on issues, with a view to addressing the priorities of their communities and to improving the lives of their peoples. The training aims to strengthen indigenous representatives' abilities to negotiate so as to improve the situation of their peoples in all of the areas under the mandate of the Permanent Forum: health, education, culture, environment, economic and social development, and human rights.

38. Participants examine rights-based and interest-based negotiation models and engage in negotiation simulations reflecting issues faced by their communities. Case studies and presentations are conducted on land and resource issues, encompassing inclusive models for participation and consultation, and constructive dialogue processes, as well as in other areas. Senior indigenous experts, including members of the Permanent Forum, as well as other specialists, and the Special Rapporteurs on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people, and on indigenous peoples' permanent sovereignty over natural resources, as well as representatives of regional organizations, are invited to serve as resource persons for the training programme.

39. For both the international and regional training programmes, UNITAR works actively with Permanent Forum members and other indigenous experts in the design of its training programmes for indigenous peoples and invites members to serve as resource persons able to address participants on the mandate and activities of the Forum, advise on the best ways to interact with the Forum and consult with participants on their respective areas of concern under the mandate of the Forum. Eight Forum members, including the Chairperson, have served as resource persons for UNITAR training programmes in the Americas, in the Asia-Pacific region, in Africa, and in the international programme. Reports of the Forum sessions are provided to each training participant in his or her handbook of reference materials. UNITAR looks forward to continued collaboration with the Forum and other indigenous experts on the capacity-building of indigenous representatives.

40. A participant handbook is prepared for each training programme which includes papers by indigenous experts, information on international and regional human rights mechanisms, chapters from the United Nations Guide for Indigenous Peoples, and other relevant documents. Reports of the Permanent Forum, reports of the Special Rapporteurs focusing on indigenous issues, as well as information on the Millennium Development Goals, are also provided in his or her handbook to each participant as reference materials for the training.

41. Each training programme concludes with a "Dialogue on a common vision for peace", providing participants with the opportunity to highlight key lessons from the training and their mutual exchange, and to articulate next steps towards building a common vision for peace and development. Feedback from participants from each region indicates that they are applying these strategies and enhanced skills in their communities and in dialogue with Governments and other partners at the local level and in international forums.

42. The international training programme is conducted annually at the time of the meetings of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations held at the United Nations Office at Geneva (2000, 2001, 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006). A regional training programme is conducted in a different part of the world each year. Regional training programmes have been held to date in Mexico for indigenous peoples of the

Americas (2001), in Thailand for indigenous representatives of the Asia-Pacific region (2003), in the United Republic of Tanzania for English-speaking indigenous peoples' representatives of Africa (2004), and in Morocco (2006) for French-speaking indigenous representatives of the Great Lakes region and Central, Northern and West Africa. The 2007 regional training programme is planned for indigenous peoples' representatives of the Pacific.

43. UNITAR has been involved in the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues since its formation and has participated in each session of the Permanent Forum.

44. The 2006 regional and international training programmes were funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of Canada, the Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland, the Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sweden, and the Agency for Development and Cooperation of Switzerland. UNITAR is grateful for this support which made these much-requested programmes possible.

B. The Millennium Development Goals and indigenous peoples: collaboration with the African Union and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights

45. At each of the two regional training programmes organized in Africa, in the United Republic of Tanzania for anglophone representatives, and in Morocco for francophone representatives, UNITAR invited Commissioners from the African Union African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, and the Chair and expert members of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations/Communities to engage in dialogue with indigenous representatives from Africa on the mandate and activities of the Commission and the Working Group, as well as to discuss how to best interact with these regional mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights in Africa. The Working Group's landmark report and country mission reports have been provided to all African participants and shared with resource persons from around the world.

Human rights

46. At each UNITAR training programme, a senior indigenous lawyer and professor conducts several sessions on United Nations and regional mechanisms to promote dialogue and action on human rights and indigenous issues. In addition, chapters of the guide developed by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on indigenous peoples and human rights are provided to each participant as part of his or her handbook of readings and reference material.

47. At a number of training sessions, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people or his staff member addressed participants on his mandate and activities as well as on the process for raising concerns and rights violations. The Special Rapporteur on indigenous peoples' permanent sovereignty over natural resources also presented a session on her mandate and activities to the international training programme. The Secretary of

the United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations served as a resource person for both regional training sessions in Africa and for the international training, highlighting opportunities for creating spaces for dialogue in the United Nations system and outlining a rights-based approach to development. A representative from the Ministry of Justice of the Congo was invited to share the draft national law on the protection of indigenous peoples' rights at the 2006 Africa regional training. As part of the elaboration of this law, they have carried out an intensive consultation with indigenous representatives and experts as well as with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the International Labour Organization (ILO).

48. Staff members of regional organizations are also invited to speak on mandates, mechanisms and opportunities for engaging in the promotion and protection of indigenous rights at the regional level. Regional representatives from the Organization of American States (OAS), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), two Commissioners from the African Union African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights including the Chair of the Working Group, as well as two indigenous expert members of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations/Communities, have served as resource persons for the training programme. Indigenous resource persons serving in government have addressed training participants on successes and challenges in the area of governance.

49. The training on negotiation examines traditional negotiation, and the rights-based approach to negotiation, and then introduces an interest-based model with which to analyse the concerns of the parties and engage in dialogue designed to address conflicts in a mutually beneficial manner.

Indigenous women

50. UNITAR actively seeks referrals of indigenous women for each training programme both as resource persons and as participants. That women compose 40 per cent of training participants furthers the aim of building on their capacity to analyse sources of conflict, identify the interests and concerns of the various parties involved and affected, and engage in dialogue and negotiation to improve the condition of life for their communities in all sectors. The Participants' Forum session of the training is normally chaired by an indigenous woman and invites representatives working in different sectors, and reflecting a gender and regional balance, to provide a presentation on initiatives that they are undertaking in the areas of environment, development, education, gender, culture, promotion of human rights, peacebuilding, and dialogue with Governments and the private sector on land and resource issues in order that strategies and remaining challenges may be shared.

51. The UNITAR training programme invites indigenous women involved in peacebuilding initiatives to participate in the training in order to share their experiences and challenges with other representatives, and to further enhance the capacity of indigenous women in conflict analysis, negotiation and peacebuilding.

52. Senior indigenous women are actively sought to serve as resource persons for the training programme for the purpose of sharing their strategies, experiences, challenges and insights on a whole range of issues of concern to indigenous women, and to indigenous men and youth. Indigenous women who have served as resource persons for the UNITAR training programme include the Chairperson of the

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues; the former Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ecuador, who is now a Permanent Forum member; a Counsellor in the Greenland Home Rule Government; the Minister of Culture and Sports of Guatemala, who serves as a Permanent Forum member; the former Permanent Forum member from the Pacific; a member of Parliament from Burundi; the Vice-Chancellor of a University of an Autonomous Region in Nicaragua; the chairperson of an indigenous alliance in the Philippines; an education officer from the Ministry of Education of Kenya, who is also the women's representative for an indigenous non-governmental organization; and an expert member of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations/Communities of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.

53. Other women who have served as resource persons for UNITAR training sessions include the Special Rapporteur on indigenous peoples' permanent sovereignty over natural resources, the Secretary of the United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations, and representatives of other United Nations organizations. UNITAR will continue to identify and invite top female resource persons and participants who contribute substantively to the excellence of the programme.

Challenges

54. As UNITAR receives no funds from the regular budget of the United Nations, funds for all programmes and staff salaries must be raised for each training programme through requests to Governments and foundations.

C. Programmes regarding indigenous issues within the Institute

55. UNITAR was established in 1965 as an autonomous body within the United Nations for the purpose of enhancing the effectiveness of the United Nations through appropriate training and research. UNITAR is governed by a Board of Trustees and is headed by an Executive Director. The Institute is supported by voluntary contributions from Governments, intergovernmental organizations, and foundations and other non-governmental sources.

56. The UNITAR Programme in Peacemaking and Preventive Diplomacy was initiated in 1993 to enhance the effectiveness of United Nations efforts in conflict prevention and resolution. Since then, the Programme has expanded to provide a range of research and training involving mid- and senior-level United Nations staff, diplomats, indigenous peoples' representatives, regional organization staff and civil society representatives.

57. Indigenous participants in the UNITAR Training Programme to Enhance Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding engage in identifying sources of conflict, and examine traditional negotiation, and rights-based negotiation approaches. Participants are then trained in interest-based negotiation and practice this method in a number of simulations. This approach seeks a win-win solution to conflict situations by helping parties become more effective at exploring one another's needs, aspirations, fears and concerns, and working from these to create innovative solutions that can address the interests of all concerned.

58. The international training programme is conducted annually at the time of the meeting of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations held at the United Nations Office at Geneva. This programme is conducted in English. In addition, a regional training programme is organized in a different part of the world each year. The first regional programme was held in Mexico in 2001 for indigenous peoples' representatives from Northern, Central and South America. The programme was conducted in Spanish and English. In 2003, the UNITAR Training Programme to Enhance the Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding Capacities of Indigenous Peoples' Representatives of the Asia-Pacific was organized in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The programme involved 30 representatives, including 13 women, from the Asia and Pacific regions. The regional training programme for indigenous peoples' representatives of Africa was organized in Arusha in December 2004 for 30 indigenous representatives from across the continent. The 2006 regional training programme was organized for 32 indigenous representatives from the Great Lakes region and Central, Northern and West Africa. The training was conducted in French. The next regional training programme is planned for indigenous representatives of the Pacific.

59. In May 2002, the UNITAR Seminar for Members of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues was organized in New York at the request of a number of Permanent Forum members. The Seminar was planned to assist their efforts to prepare for and implement the first session of the Permanent Forum at United Nations Headquarters, and to facilitate work on their important mandate.

The Millennium Development Goals and indigenous peoples

60. As the Secretary-General stated in his address to the third session of the Permanent Forum, if the twenty-first century is to be the "Age of prevention", indigenous peoples must be actively involved in decisions that affect them. As marginalization and exclusion from political and economic processes lead to alienation and poverty and constitute some of the root causes of conflict, enhancing capacity and opportunities for the meaningful participation of indigenous women and men in decision-making and political processes offers some concrete mechanisms for the prevention of violent conflict. Inclusive consultative approaches also enhance understanding of the needs, perspectives, experiences and diverse cultures of indigenous peoples and can assist in the formulation of appropriate policies and programmes that best address their needs in a sustainable manner.

61. The UNITAR training programme focuses on strengthening negotiation skills so that indigenous peoples may more effectively negotiate in development and other processes that affect them. Senior indigenous experts, who serve as resource persons for the UNITAR international and regional training programmes, present case studies on conflict and negotiation processes on development and resource issues, as these are key conflictual issues faced by indigenous peoples and States. Special Rapporteurs and a World Bank staff member are also invited to address the group on a range of development issues, policies and programmes relating to land and resources. The Millennium Development Goals and reports thereon, as well as United Nations reports on dialogue processes over natural resources, are provided to each participant as reference materials in his or her handbook for the training.

62. The programme also examines mechanisms and processes that promote participation of diverse groups in order to counter marginalization and exclusion.

Participants then engage in negotiation simulations, focusing on resource issues and inclusive political participation processes, in order to build on their capacity to satisfactorily negotiate on behalf of their organizations and communities and to develop mutually beneficial sustainable options.

D. Special theme of the sixth session: "Territories, lands and natural resources"

63. The UNITAR Training Programme to Enhance the Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding Capacities of Indigenous Peoples' Representatives focuses on strengthening the conflict analysis and negotiation skills of indigenous peoples' representatives from around the world. As conflict over land and resource issues, and marginalization from political and economic processes are two of the biggest challenges faced by indigenous peoples, the majority of cases and negotiation simulations in the training programme focus on these issues. The training programme reviews both rights-based and problem-solving negotiation processes to strengthen the capacity of indigenous representatives to analyse root causes of conflict and engage in constructive dialogue with Governments, the private sector and other communities so as to resolve conflict in a mutually beneficial and sustainable manner.

64. In order to strengthen the capacity of indigenous representatives to engage in constructive dialogue processes on the issues of lands, territories and resources, the training programme invites Special Rapporteurs and Permanent Forum members to conduct sessions on successful negotiation processes on land and resource issues, and on processes undertaken to promote and protect land and resource rights. Specific land and resource cases are presented by indigenous experts from different regions highlighting precedent-setters and remaining challenges. Initiatives to facilitate dialogue among indigenous representatives, Governments and the private sector are also highlighted. Further, regional organization mechanisms and other dialogue processes are reviewed. Senior indigenous experts and United Nations system and World Bank staff members make presentations on United Nations and international conventions, mechanisms and policies that promote and protect human rights and facilitate dialogue among concerned parties.

65. Extensive documentation including United Nations reports, guidelines and studies are made available to participants to strengthen their knowledge of conventions and mechanisms for the promotion and protection of their rights.

E. Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

66. As noted in General Assembly resolution 59/174 of 20 December 2004, proclaiming the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, commencing on 1 January 2005, indigenous peoples continue to endure a precarious economic and social situation and the persistence of grave violations of their human rights. The UNITAR training programme will continue to focus on building indigenous capacity for the protection and promotion of those human rights and the constructive resolution of conflicts in the development, social, economic, health, human rights, environment and cultural areas.

67. In the Second Decade, indigenous representatives will be engaged in dialogue and negotiation on more issues of concern than were considered in the First Decade. Intellectual property and traditional knowledge and resources, growing environmental pressures, and strategies to achieve the Millennium Development Goals are just some of the areas of keen interest that can benefit from further indigenous participation. These emerging issues and the continued economic and social marginalization that many indigenous peoples face will necessitate constructive approaches to promoting and protecting their rights, and the further development of mechanisms through which to engage indigenous peoples in processes and decisions that affect them.

68. The UNITAR training programme is designed to increase the effectiveness of indigenous representatives in engaging in dialogue on decisions that affect them and contributing to the constructive resolution of problems facing their communities in partnership with other concerned parties.

69. Indigenous experts and former participants are consulted in the design and planning of each UNITAR training programme to ensure that the programme is addressing key concerns and evolving issues faced by indigenous peoples. They advise on what cases should be included from each region, and make recommendations on top resource persons as well as on participants and organizations that could best benefit from and contribute to the programme.

IV. Information from the Department of Political Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat

70. As part of its conflict-prevention tasks, the Americas and Europe Division of the Department of Political Affairs, in monitoring the political situation of the countries of the Americas and Europe, closely follows the situations of indigenous peoples. The Division has established, as a standard practice, meetings with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people, Mr. Rodolfo Stavenhagen. Since 2003, the Special Rapporteur has briefed the Division on the findings derived from his visits to Canada, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala and Mexico. In carrying out political assessments in the region, the Division has also met with a wide array of representatives of indigenous peoples and taken their concerns into consideration in its analysis and recommendations. This has been the case, for example, when the Division was considering the situation of Bolivia, Ecuador and Canada.

71. The Americas and Europe Division of the Department of Political Affairs considers that the choice of "Territories, lands and natural resources" as the special theme of the sixth session of the Permanent Forum is timely and appropriate, as these issues are at the heart of the political debate in several countries of the region.